**Book Reviews: What To Do**

1. Read some book reviews to pick out the main elements, which should include:
   * The book’s title and author
   * A brief summary of the plot that doesn’t give away too much
   * Comments on the book’s strengths and weaknesses
   * The reviewer’s personal response to the book with specific examples to support praise or criticism
2. You can find book reviews online at the Books section of [*USA Today*](http://www.usatoday.com/life/books/default.htm?loc=interstitialskip) or [*The New York Times*](http://www.nytimes.com/pages/books/), the [Barnes & Noble *Review*](http://bnreview.barnesandnoble.com/), or [*Kirkus Reviews*](http://www.kirkusreviews.com/kirkusreviews/index.jsp).
3. Take notes while reading the book to be reviewed so you can remember what points you want to make later and what specific scenes or quotes you might want to use to support those points.
4. Outline or map the book review before writing, using one paragraph for each point you want to make about the book.
5. Some ideas for you to keep in mind while writing the review:
   * Does the book fit into a genre, like mystery or romance, and why?
   * When and where does the action in the book take place? Does the author do a good job of making you feel like you are there? How?
   * Are the main characters believable? Do you know anyone like them? Does the author adequately describe them?
   * What do you like or dislike about the author’s writing style? That is, do you like the way the author uses words?
   * Use concrete examples to back up your points, such as describing a scene that really moved you or using a couple of short quotes from the book.
   * Don’t forget to include your opinion of the book, whether you liked or disliked it.
6. If you have time, do some background research on the author. Sources might include the author’s personal website, the website for the book’s publisher, or biographies of the author. Learning information about the author and knowing what other books he or she may have written can add context to a review.

Book reviews

<http://www.stieglarsson.com/discussion-boards/discussion-boards/how-did-blomkvist--8340663>

<http://www.stieglarsson.com/The-Girl-Who-Played-with-Fire>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/16/books/review/Crime-t.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/best-sellers-books/2012-02-26/combined-print-and-e-book-nonfiction/list.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/04/books/bossypants-by-tina-fey-review.html?_r=1>

Here is the rubric for marking the book review:

/6 Writing Variables sheet

/1 catchy title

/1 indented each paragraph

/4 Paragraph 1- summary of plot: accurate, included important facts, but not too long

/4 Paragraph 2- Strengths of writing: topic sentence, one or more strengths, example/proof

/4 Paragraph 3- Weakness of writing/book: topic sentence, one or more weaknesses, example/proof

/3 Paragraph 4- Personal opinion and recommendations

/2 Conventions

Total /25